

*With the facts, we can all make informed decisions about our health.*

### **A Discussion Guide Surrounding Conspiracy Theories Related to the COVID-19 Vaccine:**

- It is normal to feel that the COVID-19 pandemic—with shutdowns, masking and changes to our everyday lives—is like a science fiction movie.
- But the fact is, COVID-19 is real and it is dangerous, as are the rumors circulating about the COVID-19 vaccines.
- There is a lot of information on the internet about the COVID-19 vaccines, and not all of it is good.
- Sometimes, you can even see someone you know and trust share something without knowing that it is not true.
- For example, there are many false stories online that claim the COVID-19 vaccines are a government conspiracy.
- Some claim that the vaccines allow the government to implant a microchip into your body and can make you magnetic.
- Simply put, even when the stories sound believable, all of these rumors are untrue. They are harmful and dangerous to share and spread.
- The three COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States and New York State are safe, rigorously tested and have proven effective. They are our best protection against this dangerous virus.
- The COVID-19 vaccines are remarkably effective at preventing severe outcomes caused by COVID-19 including hospitalization, intubation and even death.
- The scientists, health and medical experts who work in federal agencies that review and approve vaccines are not politicians.
- In fact, those who contributed to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines are dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of people – not hurting them. Their goal is to save lives.
- Vaccines have saved countless lives from deadly diseases. The COVID-19 vaccines are no different.
- Millions of New Yorkers and hundreds of millions of Americans have safely received their COVID-19 vaccine and are best protected from the virus because of it.
- The best way that you too can protect yourself, your family, your community and all those you love is by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

*It's OK to have questions, and that's why we want to make sure you have the information you need to get good answers.*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question: Is the government placing a microchip in my body when I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Answer: No. The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips.**

The New York State Department of Health and the CDC affirm that vaccines are developed to fight disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines stimulate your immune system to produce antibodies that fight disease.

**Question: Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to become magnetic?**

**Answer: No. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of the vaccination, which is typically in your arm.**

The CDC has confirmed that COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that produce an electromagnetic field at the injection site. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals as you can see in the ingredient list.

**Question: What does happen to my body when I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Answer: The vaccine stimulates your body to be prepared to fight coronavirus infection.**

Your body's immune system develops antibodies that keep you from getting sick from it. Later, if you are exposed to that infection your immune system recognizes it and knows how to fight it off. This protects you from severe disease, hospitalization and death. On the arm where you received your shot, you may experience pain, redness and swelling. Throughout the rest of your body and for about 24-72 hours after receiving the shot you may experience tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea. Talk to your doctor about taking over-the-counter medicine to alleviate any of these symptoms. The Department of Health and the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) encourage anyone to contact your healthcare provider if symptoms persist after a few days.

**Question: If a negative reaction happens post-vaccination is it because it's a bad vaccine?**

**Answer: It is rare for health problems to occur following receipt of a vaccine.**

When they do occur, they may not actually be caused by the vaccine itself. Health problems following vaccination are most often found to be coincidental and entirely unrelated to vaccination. One very rare reaction to a vaccine is anaphylactic shock, which is reversible and happens within the first 15 or so minutes after receiving a vaccine. That's why you are asked to wait after you have received a vaccine.

**Question: Where can I find accurate, reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccines?**

**Answer: Accurate, reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccines can be found through the New York State Department of Health, the CDC and the FDA.**

Visit [ny.gov/getthevaxfacts](https://ny.gov/getthevaxfacts) for accurate, fact-based information about the COVID-19 vaccines that is trustworthy and easy to understand. The website includes the most pressing topics, questions and information about the COVID-19 vaccines.